

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House passed H.R. 8, Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2005.
House Committees ordered reported 24 sundry measures, including Energy proposals.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3505–S3607

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 769–779, and S. Res. 106. **Page S3555**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “The Role of Professional Firms in the U.S. Tax Shelter Industry”. (S. Rept. No. 109–54)

Special Report entitled “Profiteering in a Non-Profit Industry: Abusive Practices in Credit Counseling”. (S. Rept. No. 109–55)

S. 362, to establish a program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Coast Guard to help identify, determine sources of, assess, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its adverse impacts on the marine environment and navigation safety, in coordination with non-Federal entities, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 109–56)

S. 39, to establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (S. Rept. No. 109–57)

S. 148, to establish a United States Boxing Commission to administer the Act. (S. Rept. No. 109–58)

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Measures Passed:

Disaster Mitigation Payments: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1134, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the proper tax treatment of certain disaster mitigation payments, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Sessions (for Baucus) Amendment No. 411, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S3604–05**

Congratulating University of Denver Men’s Hockey Team NCAA Champions: Senate agreed to S. Res. 106, congratulating the University of Denver Pioneer’s men’s hockey team, 2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Hockey Champions. **Pages S3605–06**

Supplemental Appropriations: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 1268, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver’s license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S3513–48**

Adopted:

Durbin Amendment No. 356, to ensure that a Federal employee who takes leave without pay in order to perform service as a member of the uniformed services or member of the National Guard shall continue to receive pay in an amount which, when taken together with the pay and allowances such individual is receiving for such service, will be no less than the basic pay such individual would then be receiving if no interruption in employment had occurred. (By 39 yeas to 61 nays (Vote No. 91), Senate earlier failed to table the amendment.)

Pages S3518–20

Kerry Amendment No. 333, to extend the period of temporary continuation of basic allowance for housing for dependents of members of the Armed Forces who die on active duty. **Pages S3520–21**

Kerry Amendment No. 334, to increase the military death gratuity to \$100,000, effective with respect to any deaths of members of the Armed Forces

on active duty after October 7, 2001. (By 25 yeas to 75 nays (Vote No. 92), Senate earlier failed to table the amendment.) **Pages S3517–18, S3521–22**

By 61 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. 94), Cornyn/Feinstein Amendment No. 372, to express the sense of the Senate that Congress should not delay enactment of critical appropriations necessary to ensure the well-being of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces fighting in Iraq and elsewhere around the world, by attempting to conduct a debate about immigration reform while the supplemental appropriations bill is pending on the floor of the United States Senate. **Pages S3523–32**

Stevens/Inouye Amendment No. 386, to provide for an increase in the amount appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account. **Page S3532**

Cochran (for McConnell) Amendment No. 401, of a technical nature. **Page S3542**

Cochran (for McConnell) Amendment No. 402, to address the avian influenza virus in Asia. **Page S3542**

Cochran (for Lugar/Biden) Amendment No. 403, to provide additional amounts for diplomatic and consular programs and reduce the amount available for the Global War on Terror Partners Fund. **Page S3542**

Cochran (for Leahy) Amendment No. 404, to modify language in the bill relating to environmental recovery activities in tsunami affected countries. **Page S3542**

Cochran (for Leahy) Amendment No. 405, to require five day prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations for tsunami recovery and reconstruction funds. **Page S3542**

Rejected:

By 27 yeas to 71 nays (Vote No. 93), Byrd Amendment No. 367, to reduce by \$36,000,000 the amount appropriated for “Military Construction, Army”, with the amount of the reduction to be allocated to funds available under that heading for the Camp 6 Detention Facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. **Pages S3515–17, S3522–23**

Pending:

Mikulski Amendment No. 387, to revise certain requirements for H-2B employers and require submission of information regarding H-2B non-immigrants. **Pages S3532–40, S3541–42**

Feinstein Amendment No. 395, to express the sense of the Senate that the text of the REAL ID Act of 2005 should not be included in the conference report. **Pages S3540–41**

Bayh Amendment No. 406, to protect the financial condition of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are ordered to long-term active duty in support of a contingency operation. **Pages S3542–48**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, April 14, 2005. **Pages S3606–07**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

Michael D. Griffin, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. (Prior to this action, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration.) **Page S3607**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Robert J. Portman, of Ohio, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador. **Page S3607**

Nominations Discharged: The following nominations were discharged from further committee consideration and placed on the Executive Calendar:

Daniel R. Levinson, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, which was sent to the Senate on January 24, 2005, from the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Howard J. Krongard, of New Jersey, to be Inspector General, Department of State, which was sent to the Senate on January 24, 2005, from the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. **Page S3607**

Messages From the House: **Page S3552**

Measures Referred: **Page S3552**

Executive Communications: **Pages S3552–55**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S3555**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3555–57**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S3557–66**

Additional Statements: **Pages S3550–52**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S3566–S3602**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Pages S3602–03**

Privilege of the Floor: **Page S3603**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—94) **Page S3520, S3521, S3523, S3532**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 8:11 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, April 14, 2005. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S3607.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year, after receiving testimony in behalf of funds for their respective activities from Emily Reynolds, Secretary of the Senate; and Alan Hantman, Architect of the Capitol.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006, after receiving testimony in behalf of funds for their respective activities from Keith Collins, Chief Economist, J.B. Penn, Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, Mark Rey, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Gilbert Gonzalez, Acting Under Secretary for Rural Development, and Joseph Jen, Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, all of the Department of Agriculture.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine high risk areas in the management of the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006, after receiving testimony from David M. Walker, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; Michael W. Wynne, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics; and Robert J. Henke, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense(Comptroller).

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine active and Reserve military and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006, after receiving testimony from Thomas F. Hall, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs; Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum, ARNG, Chief, National Guard Bureau; Lieutenant General Roger C. Schultz, ARNG, Director, Army National Guard; Lieutenant General Daniel James, III, ANG, Director, Air National Guard; Lieutenant General James R. Helmly, USAR, Chief, Army Reserve; Vice Admiral John G. Cotton, USNR, Chief, Naval Reserve; Lieutenant General Dennis M. McCarthy, USMCR, Commander, Marine Forces Reserve; and

Lieutenant General John A. Bradley, USAFR, Chief, Air Force Reserve.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK SYSTEM

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Federal Home Loan Bank System, focusing on changes and current issues affecting the system, including the promotion of housing and community development generally by making loans, also known as advances, to member financial institutions, after receiving testimony from Thomas J. McCool, Managing Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, Government Accountability Office; George L. Engelke, Jr., Astoria Federal Savings and Loan Association, Lake Success, New York, on behalf of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York; Paul Clabuesch, Thumb National Bank and Trust Company, Pigeon, Michigan, on behalf of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis; John Edward Norris, III, Plantation Federal Bank, Pawleys Island, South Carolina; Alex J. Pollock, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Martin Eakes, Self-Help Credit Union and Center for Responsible Lending, Durham, North Carolina.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Aviation: Senators Burns (Chair), Stevens, McCain, Lott, Hutchison, Snowe, Smith, Ensign, Allen, Sununu, DeMint, Rockefeller, Inouye, Dorgan, Boxer, Cantwell, Lautenberg, Nelson (FL), Nelson (NE), and Pryor.

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine: Senators Lott (Chair), Stevens, McCain, Burns, Hutchison, Snowe, Smith, Allen, Sununu, Vitter, Inouye, Rockefeller, Dorgan, Boxer, Cantwell, Lautenberg, Nelson (NE), and Pryor.

Subcommittee on Science and Space: Senators Hutchison (Chair), Stevens, Burns, Lott, Ensign, Allen, Sununu, Nelson (FL), Rockefeller, Dorgan, Nelson (NE), and Pryor.

Subcommittee on Fisheries and the Coast Guard: Senators Snowe (Chair), Stevens, Lott, Smith, Sununu, Vitter, Cantwell, Inouye, Kerry, and Lautenberg.

Subcommittee on Trade, Tourism, and Economic Development: Senators Smith (Chair), Stevens, McCain, Burns, Ensign, Allen, Sununu, DeMint, Vitter, Dorgan, Inouye, Rockefeller, Kerry, Cantwell, Lautenberg, Nelson (FL), Nelson (NE), and Pryor.

Subcommittee on Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness: Senators Ensign (Chair), Stevens, Burns, Lott, Hutchison, Allen, Sununu, DeMint, Kerry, Inouye, Rockefeller, Dorgan, Nelson (FL), and Pryor.